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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4806
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 3996
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT 1160
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 6094
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA 3436
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0439

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 000561

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/WE, NEA/MAG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/31/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MO](#) [AG](#) [WI](#) [UNSC](#) [SP](#)

SUBJECT: SPAIN'S VIEWS ON WESTERN SAHARA AND THE MANHASSET
PROCESS

REF: (A) STATE 49768 (B) MADRID 485

Classified By: DCM Hugo Llorens for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) Spanish MFA Deputy Director General for North Africa Manuel Gomez-Acebo received reftel (A) demarche and reiterated Spain's views detailed in reftel (b). Gomez-Acebo agreed that it is important to maintain the primacy of UNSYG Representative for Western Sahara Peter Van Walsum's efforts.

12. (C) With regard to Morocco's interest in opening a second track with the Polisario, Gomez-Acebo asked, "why would they open a second track when they have no strong incentives and the second track could be a distraction?" He agreed strongly that Morocco needed to consider specific measures aimed at improving human rights conditions on the ground. He also agreed that Morocco must find a mutually-acceptable mechanism to facilitate overland family visits during the next round of talks.
Aguirre